

THE DAILY BEE.

Published every morning, except Sunday, at the Omaha office, No. 114 and 99 FURNACE street. The only Monday morning paper published in the city.

TERMS BY MAIL: One Year, \$10.00; Six Months, \$6.00; Three Months, \$3.50.

It is proposed to arm the cowboys to watch the Indians in Arizona. The dispatches fall to state to watch the cowboys.

High license has given Nebraska a more favorable advertisement throughout the country than anything else except the remarkable development of her leading city.

REAL estate is holding firmer than ever before in Omaha at the opening of the new year. The continued sales and steady inquiry indicate a boom in the spring which will make the croakers and mossbacks pale with astonishment.

WITH vineyards bridging the tracks between the north and south portions of the city, Omaha's growth next year will be in more than one direction, and thousands of dollars of valuable residence and business property will be made available by rapid transit.

We haven't heard anything of Judge Tongue lately with his literary studies in charcoal and chalk. Mr. Cleveland's inauguration seems to have shelved the great apostle of sectional literature, and to have left the New York Tribune sole master of the field.

MR. GLADSTONE celebrated his birthday on Tuesday and was overwhelmed with presents. The ex-premier failed to receive the present of a parliamentary majority which just now would have been the most acceptable gift which could have been offered him by his supporters.

It is proposed to turn bloodhounds loose in Arizona and New Mexico with a view to clearing out the little band of Apaches who have been devastating the country. Several broken up Uncle Tom's cabin troupes can learn something to their advantage by tracing their footsteps in that direction.

ROSEBUD CONKLING emphatically denies that he has any further political aspirations. So long as Blaine is out of the senate, and his law practice rolls in \$100,000 a year Mr. Conkling will be satisfied to work for the corporations and to let private revenge and the interests of the clear people look out for themselves.

THE BEE is the only Nebraska daily that dares to take its readers into its confidence and exhibit its business condition, its receipts, expenditures and management. The figures which will be found elsewhere in this issue will repay study as showing how the Bee has kept up with the rapidly advancing procession of our city's developments.

JOHN expressed a desire that his enemy would write a book. If Job had lived in Nebraska, and was in as high a situation of prominence as he once occupied in Camden, he would probably be satisfied if his enemies edited opposition newspapers. Just at present the best advertising for Nebraska's senior senator is receiving orders from brass-collared brigade who oppose him in politics.

COMMISSIONER SPARKS says he proposes to hold the fort in spite of the paper bullets with which he is being bombarded by the Washington correspondents. He denies that he will recede from his opposition to the land sharks and corporation grabbers until forced to do so by a demand for his resignation coming from the secretary of the interior. Mr. Sparks may cause some present inconvenience to speculators and claim jumpers, but the honest homesteaders and pre-emptors of the west will not suffer materially from his firm enforcement of the land laws and his courageous conduct of the land office.

THE attempts of some ill advised editors to create and to foster antagonism between Omaha and the flourishing towns of the state will never succeed, as they ought to fail. Such a spirit of rivalry helps none of the communities concerned. Omaha and other cities and towns in Nebraska are too closely united by common interests to profitably engage in such controversies. Whatever benefits the one assists in the development of the west. Behind them all stands our state with its marvelous advance in agricultural prosperity, with its farms and villages and its rich store of food products whose consumption and sale is building up our cities and increasing the commercial importance of every community which is at once tributary to and the recipient of the tribute of our farming regions. Every increase in the prosperity of our interior towns affords an opportunity for Omaha to advance her trade interests. Every commercial facility added to Omaha makes her at once a better market and a better center for supply to the state at large. Petty jealousies and envy may have their place in some small border eastern state, whose size scarcely exceeds a couple of Nebraska counties, but they should be carefully excluded from a magnificent domain like ours where there is more than room for all and where untold effort is building up one of the grandest of western commonwealths.

The Story of the Year.

Omaha may be congratulated upon the handsome exhibit which we present in the carefully prepared and compact review of her growth during the year which closes to-day. The story related by indisputable facts and figures is interesting and instructive. It affords stable grounds for adding confidence in the bright destiny of this city. The census taken during the present year has been full of gratifying surprises. It was an official certificate to the world worth to Omaha many thousands of inhabitants. The statistics which we publish to-day are a guarantee that the next census will find more than a hundred thousand people in Omaha.

The commercial growth of Omaha is practically exhibited by the clearing house returns, her wholesale trade and railroad traffic. Among the thirty-one clearing house cities in the United States, Omaha ranks fifteenth. The six national banks in the Omaha clearing house carry over eight millions of deposits and their exchanges are more extensive than those of cities who boast double and triple our population.

Ten years ago when we published the first reliable annual review, the jobbing trade of Omaha, including sales of commission houses, aggregated \$7,067,630. In the year 1885 the wholesale trade of Omaha reached the handsome figure of \$29,680,000. This means that Omaha has quadrupled her jobbing trade in ten years. In 1881 the aggregate wholesale business was \$34,332,891. This shows an increase of over \$5,000,000 during the year 1885.

Manufacturing in Omaha, which was in its infancy ten years ago, has assumed vast proportions. The value of this year's product of Omaha's shops and factories aggregates \$25,128,000. The wages paid for labor during the year by these manufacturing concerns aggregate \$2,109,000.

The establishment of the Union stock yards and erection of beef-packing houses has opened a new industrial era for Omaha. Twelve months ago beef-packing in Omaha was regarded as an experiment. To-day it is a leading factor among her industries, and one of the most important and substantial promoters of her growth. The figures presented elsewhere speak for themselves. They demonstrate beyond any doubt that Omaha is destined in the near future to be one of the greatest live stock markets on the continent.

Omaha's substantial growth during the past year is furthermore attested by the building record, which we have compiled with great care. Omaha has expended during the year 1885 for public improvements, factories, storerooms and dwellings, \$3,702,120. Of this amount \$227,707 represents the aggregate for public improvements. This is a splendid exhibit, and should certainly be satisfactory to everybody interested in the welfare of Omaha.

Greys's Re-election. The enemies of the French republic who counted on the defeat of M. Greys for the presidency have been again disappointed. M. Greys enters upon his second term of seven years with as hearty support as could be expected from a party which delights in five factions of differing shades of republicanism. The certainty that the conservative and upright old statesman will be at the helm for another septennate is sufficient assurance for the continuance of the republic during his administration. His entrance upon the duties of his office in 1879 was made when France was trembling on the verge of revolution. Thiers six years previously had lost his office by an adverse vote on his proposition for the definitive establishment of the republic. McMahon, though a republican in principle, had declined to recognize the subordination of the ministry to the popular voice of the chamber of deputies. He fell from power under the vigorous attacks of Gambetta, which changed a conservative vote in the senate to a liberal republican majority. On the last day of January, 1879, McMahon resigned and Jules Greys was selected as the president of the French republic. Mr. Greys's first term has been a turbulent one. It was the most trying period in the change from practical anarchy toward a settled representative government. The educational and amnesty bills were passed, the seat of government was removed from Versailles to Paris, and the policy of foreign exploitation condemned at the polls of the October election, was pushed in Tunis, Madagascar and Tonquin. Cabinets rose and fell with scarcely a year's tenure of office. But, on the whole, there has been a decided advance toward a more stable government and a progressive education of the people in their political privileges.

There is a loud demand for the recall of Minister Phelps from London. It comes from the bogus estate sharks who have been reaping a rich fortune for years by bleeding credulous Americans under promise of securing for them fictitious millions locked up in English chancery. There are probably a dozen "family associations" existing in this country to-day whose members are paying monthly assessments to eminent legal counsel for their services in securing evidence of kinship to some assumed English inheritance. The Jemmes association, with headquarters in Philadelphia have been contributing \$10,000 a year for several years. The Hopes have expended \$25,000 in legal advice, and a number of the claimants have dropped their dollars in the hopper in proportionate amounts. Minister Phelps now announces that the entire unclaimed amount availing all heirs, home and foreign, which the English chancery has in hand is only \$2,500,000 and of the various estates of which Americans claim a part he is unable to find a single one which has not long ago been distributed to its rightful owners. The consternation and disgust of the American claimants may be imagined. But it is a circumstance to the disgust and consternation of the confidence men, who as promoters of estate hunting have

been making a handsome living from their gullible victims. The average English estate does not wait long for heirs. They are promptly on hand to claim their own. The soundest advice to people in this country who are waited upon by the estate reclaimer, is to lock the front door and to call for the police.

To Open the Reserve. Dakota and Nebraska are more interested in the efforts which will be made to open a portion of the great Sioux reserve than they are in the Indian territory problem. Oklahoma, while a desirable section of the Indian territory, is not surrounded on every side by settlements and does not act as a bar to travel and transportation. The Sioux reserve in Dakota is a well known territory. It is much larger than there is any need of, and occupies the best part of the best agricultural area. In addition it cuts off all direct access from the east to the Black Hills region. The proposition to open a belt across the reserve from the east to the west and concentrate the Indians north and south on smaller reservations will be brought up again for consideration in the present congress. There is no doubt that by wisely conducted negotiations the Indians can be induced to sell that portion between the White and Cheyenne rivers, including millions of acres of desirable lands. The proceeds could be safely invested for the benefit and the interest devoted to the promotion of education and agriculture. So much of the land as might be required for this purpose could be cut up into farms in severity and allotted to the Indians. The remainder when sold would furnish a fund sufficient for the support of the Sioux until such time as they found it to their interest to become self-sustaining. The Indian problem will never be solved satisfactorily so long as thousands of lazy "coffee coolers" are allowed to monopolize in idleness vast tracts of the public domain. The division of the reservations and the allotment of lands in severity will be the first practical step towards civilizing the savages.

Not Before He Is In His Coffin. When the lid of Jay Gould's coffin is firmly screwed down it will be time enough to believe that he has retired from Wall street.

Why Not? Congressmen are anxious to get rid of the crowds of office-seekers who beset them on every side. Why not turn a few miles loose among them?

Perfectly Natural. Miss Murrefree, the novelist, devoted a large portion of her last novel, to Tennessee scenery; but then there is more scenery than anything else in Tennessee.

They Had a Comfortable Time of It. RATHER a disagreeable set before the American people is that of one old bachelor and one old maid dining in lonely state in White House on Christmas day.

A Question. Last year Mr. Laird succeeded in getting a pension for himself of \$3,000. Wonder if he will be able to do as much for the district this year as he did last. All we want of a congressman is to let him get a pension for himself. Jim Laird must be his own successor.

Beauties of High License. Chicagoans, who have just received a revenue of \$4,600,000 a year from the high license system. The number of saloons has decreased 30 percent within the year. If this keeps on pretty soon there will be no saloons left, and the revenue will be increased beyond computation.

No Streak of Tenderness. There seems to be no streak of tenderness or mercy in the nature of Mr. Henry Waterson's star-eyed goddess of reform. The way she sits on Samuel J. Randall's jugular vein indicates that she is no better than the average American way to look for poison for himself. Jim Laird must be his own successor.

Better Than Ponderous Walls. Making this a country where every citizen has a happy home, all his own, and industrial, economic and financial policies that insure him labor at reasonable wages for the support of his family and the education of his children, and that will stand up against invasion and conquest than ponderous walls around our city.

Attention, Congressmen. Gentlemen of congress, stop fooling away your time doing nothing and I studying how not to do anything, and give some attention to the great question of the currency, the election law, the presidential succession, the electoral college, and other matters that imperatively demand legislative action.

A Shot at Our Collector. When a cargo of tea, direct from Yokohama, arrived at Omaha the other day in the cars, the collector at that post, unused to the fact that the fragrant commodity was obliged to stand samples to better educated smelling and handling before he could collect the duty and deliver the goods. There would have been no such trouble with a cargo of rum.

Double-Dyed Traitor in York State. Waterson, N. Y., furnishes a traitor of such an extreme type that the bloody shirt may have to be called from its repository to indicate the treason of a pensioner on a union soldier, but being in every circumstance, he has his pension money regularly sent to a disabled ex-Confederate soldier in Virginia. There is material here for a New York Tribune editorial.

Speaks Falsely. The Independent knows something of the rates in foreign lands as well as of the rates in America, and was prepared to show that Secretary Gere speaks falsely when he makes the reckless statement that average rates in Nebraska are no higher than the average rates in any of the foreign countries. Gere ought to make railroad rates a study for a time, else take a lesson or two in veracity.

Another One About Our Sleeper. A young lady out in Nebraska was doing the family washing one day about two months ago when she laid down and went to sleep. She is still asleep, and her friends are unable to wake her. The way of it. Send a young lady to a ball every night in the week and let her sit up with her best fellow Sunday nights and she will never feel like going to sleep, but her at work over a week and in six business she will be tired enough to sleep all winter.

Sudden Death. Sudden death may be inconvenient, but why is it essentially undesirable? It is a shock to those who remain, but to him who goes it is not a blessing rather than the reverse? The shock argument against it is that sudden death gives no opportunity for that spiritual preparation which should precede a change of worlds. To this it may be answered that

he who has not so lived, as to be always ready to die is not likely to derive much benefit from the best preparation.

The Sultan of Turkey has reduced the number of his wives to 30. And just at a time when sensiskin saques are as cheap as Mrs. Barrios, widow of the late president of Guatemala, is staying in New Orleans this winter. She has a fortune of \$5,000,000.

W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, who has been given away more than a million dollars, was seventy-eight years old on Sunday.

Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll now surprises many of his friends who have not seen him for some months by his noticeably reduced size.

A Boston lady has presented Mr. Cleveland with a cane. In the Bostonese language of illustration this means, "Your message received."

It is much larger to engage in a walking match. Of course it will be his "last appearance" here.

When the prince of Wales and Gladstone were in Norway last summer it was Gladstone who received all the attention. The grand old man continues to be the cynosure of all eyes.

Joanin Miller is extremely sensitive, but he is not a recluse. Though he never enters the gay social life of Washington, he is frequently seen on the streets about the capital and about the various departments.

Fanny Davenport, who was thirty years old fifteen years ago, is now in her thirty-sixth year, according to a personal item in the paper. It is not, however, as we suppose she was any more than twenty-seven.

"Queen Natalie, of Serbia, has bought four American sewing machines. This is all very well; but will all the sewing-machine agents begin to yank at the double-bell of the balance every day to know whether she doesn't want to trade her machines for some other kind," remarked an experienced housekeeper.

Not Before He Is In His Coffin. When the lid of Jay Gould's coffin is firmly screwed down it will be time enough to believe that he has retired from Wall street.

Why Not? Congressmen are anxious to get rid of the crowds of office-seekers who beset them on every side. Why not turn a few miles loose among them?

Perfectly Natural. Miss Murrefree, the novelist, devoted a large portion of her last novel, to Tennessee scenery; but then there is more scenery than anything else in Tennessee.

They Had a Comfortable Time of It. RATHER a disagreeable set before the American people is that of one old bachelor and one old maid dining in lonely state in White House on Christmas day.

A Question. Last year Mr. Laird succeeded in getting a pension for himself of \$3,000. Wonder if he will be able to do as much for the district this year as he did last. All we want of a congressman is to let him get a pension for himself. Jim Laird must be his own successor.

Beauties of High License. Chicagoans, who have just received a revenue of \$4,600,000 a year from the high license system. The number of saloons has decreased 30 percent within the year. If this keeps on pretty soon there will be no saloons left, and the revenue will be increased beyond computation.

No Streak of Tenderness. There seems to be no streak of tenderness or mercy in the nature of Mr. Henry Waterson's star-eyed goddess of reform. The way she sits on Samuel J. Randall's jugular vein indicates that she is no better than the average American way to look for poison for himself. Jim Laird must be his own successor.

Better Than Ponderous Walls. Making this a country where every citizen has a happy home, all his own, and industrial, economic and financial policies that insure him labor at reasonable wages for the support of his family and the education of his children, and that will stand up against invasion and conquest than ponderous walls around our city.

Attention, Congressmen. Gentlemen of congress, stop fooling away your time doing nothing and I studying how not to do anything, and give some attention to the great question of the currency, the election law, the presidential succession, the electoral college, and other matters that imperatively demand legislative action.

A Shot at Our Collector. When a cargo of tea, direct from Yokohama, arrived at Omaha the other day in the cars, the collector at that post, unused to the fact that the fragrant commodity was obliged to stand samples to better educated smelling and handling before he could collect the duty and deliver the goods. There would have been no such trouble with a cargo of rum.

Double-Dyed Traitor in York State. Waterson, N. Y., furnishes a traitor of such an extreme type that the bloody shirt may have to be called from its repository to indicate the treason of a pensioner on a union soldier, but being in every circumstance, he has his pension money regularly sent to a disabled ex-Confederate soldier in Virginia. There is material here for a New York Tribune editorial.

Speaks Falsely. The Independent knows something of the rates in foreign lands as well as of the rates in America, and was prepared to show that Secretary Gere speaks falsely when he makes the reckless statement that average rates in Nebraska are no higher than the average rates in any of the foreign countries. Gere ought to make railroad rates a study for a time, else take a lesson or two in veracity.

Another One About Our Sleeper. A young lady out in Nebraska was doing the family washing one day about two months ago when she laid down and went to sleep. She is still asleep, and her friends are unable to wake her. The way of it. Send a young lady to a ball every night in the week and let her sit up with her best fellow Sunday nights and she will never feel like going to sleep, but her at work over a week and in six business she will be tired enough to sleep all winter.

Sudden Death. Sudden death may be inconvenient, but why is it essentially undesirable? It is a shock to those who remain, but to him who goes it is not a blessing rather than the reverse? The shock argument against it is that sudden death gives no opportunity for that spiritual preparation which should precede a change of worlds. To this it may be answered that

he who has not so lived, as to be always ready to die is not likely to derive much benefit from the best preparation.

The Sultan of Turkey has reduced the number of his wives to 30. And just at a time when sensiskin saques are as cheap as Mrs. Barrios, widow of the late president of Guatemala, is staying in New Orleans this winter. She has a fortune of \$5,000,000.

W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, who has been given away more than a million dollars, was seventy-eight years old on Sunday.

Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll now surprises many of his friends who have not seen him for some months by his noticeably reduced size.

A Boston lady has presented Mr. Cleveland with a cane. In the Bostonese language of illustration this means, "Your message received."

It is much larger to engage in a walking match. Of course it will be his "last appearance" here.

When the prince of Wales and Gladstone were in Norway last summer it was Gladstone who received all the attention. The grand old man continues to be the cynosure of all eyes.

Joanin Miller is extremely sensitive, but he is not a recluse. Though he never enters the gay social life of Washington, he is frequently seen on the streets about the capital and about the various departments.

Fanny Davenport, who was thirty years old fifteen years ago, is now in her thirty-sixth year, according to a personal item in the paper. It is not, however, as we suppose she was any more than twenty-seven.

"Queen Natalie, of Serbia, has bought four American sewing machines. This is all very well; but will all the sewing-machine agents begin to yank at the double-bell of the balance every day to know whether she doesn't want to trade her machines for some other kind," remarked an experienced housekeeper.

Not Before He Is In His Coffin. When the lid of Jay Gould's coffin is firmly screwed down it will be time enough to believe that he has retired from Wall street.

Why Not? Congressmen are anxious to get rid of the crowds of office-seekers who beset them on every side. Why not turn a few miles loose among them?

Perfectly Natural. Miss Murrefree, the novelist, devoted a large portion of her last novel, to Tennessee scenery; but then there is more scenery than anything else in Tennessee.

They Had a Comfortable Time of It. RATHER a disagreeable set before the American people is that of one old bachelor and one old maid dining in lonely state in White House on Christmas day.

A Question. Last year Mr. Laird succeeded in getting a pension for himself of \$3,000. Wonder if he will be able to do as much for the district this year as he did last. All we want of a congressman is to let him get a pension for himself. Jim Laird must be his own successor.

Beauties of High License. Chicagoans, who have just received a revenue of \$4,600,000 a year from the high license system. The number of saloons has decreased 30 percent within the year. If this keeps on pretty soon there will be no saloons left, and the revenue will be increased beyond computation.

No Streak of Tenderness. There seems to be no streak of tenderness or mercy in the nature of Mr. Henry Waterson's star-eyed goddess of reform. The way she sits on Samuel J. Randall's jugular vein indicates that she is no better than the average American way to look for poison for himself. Jim Laird must be his own successor.

Better Than Ponderous Walls. Making this a country where every citizen has a happy home, all his own, and industrial, economic and financial policies that insure him labor at reasonable wages for the support of his family and the education of his children, and that will stand up against invasion and conquest than ponderous walls around our city.

Attention, Congressmen. Gentlemen of congress, stop fooling away your time doing nothing and I studying how not to do anything, and give some attention to the great question of the currency, the election law, the presidential succession, the electoral college, and other matters that imperatively demand legislative action.

A Shot at Our Collector. When a cargo of tea, direct from Yokohama, arrived at Omaha the other day in the cars, the collector at that post, unused to the fact that the fragrant commodity was obliged to stand samples to better educated smelling and handling before he could collect the duty and deliver the goods. There would have been no such trouble with a cargo of rum.

Double-Dyed Traitor in York State. Waterson, N. Y., furnishes a traitor of such an extreme type that the bloody shirt may have to be called from its repository to indicate the treason of a pensioner on a union soldier, but being in every circumstance, he has his pension money regularly sent to a disabled ex-Confederate soldier in Virginia. There is material here for a New York Tribune editorial.

Speaks Falsely. The Independent knows something of the rates in foreign lands as well as of the rates in America, and was prepared to show that Secretary Gere speaks falsely when he makes the reckless statement that average rates in Nebraska are no higher than the average rates in any of the foreign countries. Gere ought to make railroad rates a study for a time, else take a lesson or two in veracity.

Another One About Our Sleeper. A young lady out in Nebraska was doing the family washing one day about two months ago when she laid down and went to sleep. She is still asleep, and her friends are unable to wake her. The way of it. Send a young lady to a ball every night in the week and let her sit up with her best fellow Sunday nights and she will never feel like going to sleep, but her at work over a week and in six business she will be tired enough to sleep all winter.

Sudden Death. Sudden death may be inconvenient, but why is it essentially undesirable? It is a shock to those who remain, but to him who goes it is not a blessing rather than the reverse? The shock argument against it is that sudden death gives no opportunity for that spiritual preparation which should precede a change of worlds. To this it may be answered that

THE INK-STAINED THUMB.

A Detective's Story of the Peculiar Murderer in Which It Was Verified That Murder Will Out.

History of a Strange Tragedy Which Occurred in a Mississippi River Town—The Cashier's Sad Fate.

A few evenings since a St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter stepped into a small retail establishment on a side street of St. Paul to make the purchase of a cigar, and after securing the weed, was turning to leave, when the proprietor remarked: "Some time ago I noticed an item in your paper which said that in San Francisco they photographed the thumbs of Chinese, and that there seemed to be a greater difference in their thumb nails than in their faces. Now, that is a wrong impression of the matter. It is the under part, or sole of the thumb, which is photographed, as the lines and circles in the skin are not the same on any two people in the universe. This fact is not generally known, but, if I am not mistaken, is taken as a subject of illustration in Mark Twain's 'Life on the Mississippi,' in which a murderer if ferreted out, but at the end the wrong man pays the penalty of the crime. For many years I was in the detective business, and in one case the only clue I had was a print of a man's thumb. It is not a very long story, and if you are not in a hurry I will tell you about it." Being requested to relate the incident, he resumed: "In writing of the second battle of Manassas in the Century series of war papers General Pope naturally revives the old and exploded charges against Porter and seeks, under their cover, to palliate his own short-sightedness and folly. The last few years have done so much to reverse the animus of the attacks that were made on Porter that Pope's return to the subject is not only a reflection on the man, but a reflection on the man's own short-sightedness and folly. The man who would like to have handed down the ages, he gained much sympathy for a certain time, but the fact of the falsity of his charges against Porter made clear, he has nothing left him except a willingness on the part of the public to concede that he meant well."

General Grant devoted a large portion of his last years of life to an effort to drum into prejudice and stupid ears the truth as to Porter's case. How well he succeeded, we know. The man who was being made to endure is not that which John Pope would like to have handed down the ages. He gained much sympathy for a certain time, but the fact of the falsity of his charges against Porter made clear, he has nothing left him except a willingness on the part of the public to concede that he meant well. General Grant devoted a large portion of his last years of life to an effort to drum into prejudice and stupid ears the truth as to Porter's case. How well he succeeded, we know. The man who was being made to endure is not that which John Pope would like to have handed down the ages. He gained much sympathy for a certain time, but the fact of the falsity of his charges against Porter made clear, he has nothing left him except a willingness on the part of the public to concede that he meant well. Short Interviews Gathered in the Hotel Rotundas. Hon. Sol Prentiss, Niagara, Neb.—The trouble over the removal of the Niagara land office appears to have been settled; in fact you hear very little now about its being taken from our city. The agitators who were in it for a time, but are now quiet, are now very few and far between. Yes, our section of the country is booming—being settled up very fast. What we would like to have is better rail connection with Omaha. Your city needs a railroad directly northwest built and run in her own interests. Such a line would be mutually beneficial to our country and to the city of Omaha. Our country, for one, is sure would be willing to vote substantial aid to the enterprise. L. T. Allen, Salt Lake City, Utah.—Apprentice work is done in our city at present, and, seemingly, there is little or no danger of an outbreak. But it seems to me—and I believe that any one else who has at all carefully studied the situation in Utah—who would like to see the matter merely suppressed, and that the flames are ready to break forth at any time. There is a certain element of the Mormon church which is restless and ready for mischief, and it is not difficult to check by another and more conservative party. Still, as I intimated before, I think that any sudden jar would precipitate serious trouble, and I would not be at all surprised if that trouble were to come within the next month or two. The military are prepared for any outbreak and could easily handle an insurrection. Mr. C. C. Johnson, Denver, Colorado.—Surveyors are at work upon the proposed route of the new Chicago, St. Louis & Pacific road, which is to connect St. Louis and Omaha. The survey is now being made between Tabor and Glenwood, and will be continued down as far as Mexico, Mo. It is understood that the line is to be built by the Chicago & Alton road, which extends to Tabor, from Chicago, through Alton, to St. Louis, and has a branch running southwestward from Roadhouse, Ill., to Kansas City, passing through Alton, Mo. From that latter point it is believed the line to Omaha will be built.

"AN OPTION DEAL." The Decision in an Interesting Case Rendered by Judge McCulloch.

Yesterday Judge McCulloch rendered decision in the suit of McWhorter against P. D. Cooper, who optioned, in reference to which was made in these columns yesterday. He decided that the contract alleged to have been made between McWhorter and Cooper, which was a contract for the purchase of a certain quantity of grain, was not a valid, binding contract. It seems that on one morning several months ago Cooper stepped into the office of plaintiff and offered to buy a bushel of wheat, putting up as a margin on any possible deal the sum of \$100. Grain took a tumble that day and when noon had come the price was nearly exhausted. Cooper works in the Union Pacific headquarters, and ordered his agents to close out the deal. As considerable time elapsed before the price could be done when had sunk still lower, and the 40,000 bushels were unloaded at a sacrifice of \$100. Cooper refused to make good the balance, \$200. There did not appear to be any issue about the amount in controversy except so far as to whether or not the purchase was a valid contract. The question being thus an option deal. One of the plaintiffs, Mr. McWhorter, testified that as he understood the bargain the grain was to be delivered, and added that he had placed a check in his office stating "delivery is contemplated in every deal." The defendant Cooper testified that his purchase was a pure option deal, and with his evidence the case was concluded. According to Judge McCulloch's decision Cooper will not be obliged to pay the \$200 balance to McWhorter and his co-plaintiffs. This will not in all probability be a very pleasant precedent for the grain firm as it establishes a principle which is liable to prove dangerous to their business.

THE INK-STAINED THUMB.

A Detective's Story of the Peculiar Murderer in Which It Was Verified That Murder Will Out.

History of a Strange Tragedy Which Occurred in a Mississippi River Town—The Cashier's Sad Fate.

A few evenings since a St. Paul Pioneer Press reporter stepped into a small retail establishment on a side street of St. Paul to make the purchase of a cigar, and after securing the weed, was turning to leave, when the proprietor remarked: "Some time ago I noticed an item in your paper which said that in San Francisco they photographed the thumbs of Chinese, and that there seemed to be a greater difference in their thumb nails than in their faces. Now, that is a wrong impression of the matter. It is the under part, or sole of the thumb, which is photographed, as the lines and circles in the skin are not the same on any two people in the universe. This fact is not generally known, but, if I am not mistaken, is taken as a subject of illustration in Mark Twain's 'Life on the Mississippi,' in which a murderer if ferreted out, but at the end the wrong man pays the penalty of the crime. For many years I was in the detective business, and in one case the only clue I had was a print of a man's thumb. It is not a very long story, and if you are not in a hurry I will tell you about it." Being requested to relate the incident, he resumed: "In writing of the second battle of Manassas in the Century series of war papers General Pope naturally revives the old and exploded charges against Porter and seeks, under their cover, to palliate his own short-sightedness and folly. The last few years have done so much to reverse the animus of the attacks that were made on Porter that Pope's return to the subject is not only a reflection on the man, but a reflection on the man's own short-sightedness and folly. The man who would like to have handed down the ages, he gained much sympathy for a certain time, but the fact of the falsity of his charges against Porter made clear, he has nothing left him except a willingness on the part of the public to concede that he meant well."

General Grant devoted a large portion of his last years of life to an effort to drum into prejudice and stupid ears the truth as to Porter's case. How well he succeeded, we know. The man who was being made to endure is not that which John Pope would like to have handed down the ages. He gained much sympathy for a certain time, but the fact of the falsity of his charges against Porter made clear, he has nothing left him except a willingness on the part of the public to concede that he meant well. Short Interviews Gathered in the Hotel Rotundas. Hon. Sol Prentiss, Niagara, Neb.—The trouble over the removal of the Niagara land office appears to have been settled; in fact you hear very little now about its being taken from our city. The agitators who were in it for a time, but are now quiet, are now very few and far between. Yes, our section of the country is booming—being settled up very fast. What we would like to have is better rail connection with Omaha. Your city needs a railroad directly northwest built and run in her own interests. Such a line would be mutually beneficial to our country and to the city of Omaha. Our country, for one, is sure would be willing to vote substantial aid to the enterprise. L. T. Allen, Salt Lake City, Utah.—Apprentice work is done in our city at present, and, seemingly, there is little or no danger of an outbreak. But it seems to me—and I believe that any one else who has at all carefully studied the situation in Utah—who would like to see the matter merely suppressed, and that the flames are ready to break forth at any time. There is a certain element of the Mormon church which is restless and ready for mischief, and it is not difficult to check by another and more conservative party. Still, as I intimated before, I think that any sudden jar would precipitate serious trouble, and I would not be at all surprised if that trouble were to come within the next month or two. The military are prepared for any outbreak and could easily handle an insurrection. Mr. C. C. Johnson, Denver, Colorado.—Surveyors are at work upon the proposed route of the new Chicago, St. Louis & Pacific road, which is to connect St. Louis and Omaha. The survey is now being made between Tabor and Glenwood, and will be continued down as far as Mexico, Mo. It is understood that the line is to be built by the Chicago & Alton road, which extends to Tabor, from Chicago, through Alton, to St. Louis, and has a branch running southwestward from Roadhouse, Ill., to Kansas City, passing through Alton, Mo. From that latter point it is believed the line to Omaha will be built.

"AN OPTION DEAL." The Decision in an Interesting Case Rendered by Judge McCulloch.

Yesterday Judge McCulloch rendered decision in the suit of McWhorter against P. D. Cooper, who optioned, in reference to which was made in these columns yesterday. He decided that the contract alleged to have been made between McWhorter and Cooper, which was a contract for the purchase of a certain quantity of grain, was not a valid, binding contract. It seems that on one morning several months ago Cooper stepped into the office of plaintiff and offered to buy a bushel of wheat, putting up as a margin on any possible deal the sum of \$100. Grain took a tumble that day and when noon had come the price was nearly exhausted. Cooper works in the Union Pacific headquarters, and ordered his agents to close out the deal. As considerable time elapsed before the price could be done when had sunk still lower, and the 40,000 bushels were unloaded at a sacrifice of \$100. Cooper refused to make good the balance, \$200. There did not appear to be any issue about the amount in controversy except so far as to whether or not the purchase was a valid contract. The question being thus an option deal. One of the plaintiffs, Mr. McWhorter, testified that as he understood the bargain the grain was to be delivered, and added that he had placed a check in his office stating "delivery is contemplated in every deal." The defendant Cooper testified that his purchase was a pure option deal, and with his evidence the case was concluded. According to